

Michigan Association for  
Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog  
Federation



## House Bill 4610

### Position Paper

The purpose of this bill is to establish the right to ride horses on state owned land. Since the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and the Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs sponsor field trials to evaluate the hunting performance of their breeding programs, they frequently use state owned recreational areas for these trials. In the process of evaluating the relative hunting abilities of the various entries, the judges and trial officials are mounted on horse back for maintaining a more favorable position to view the dogs' performance. Since extensive acreage is necessary, the state owned recreation facilities are utilized.

Two state parks are presently used for these purposes, the Ionia and Highland Recreational Areas. These field trial events attract many Michigan residents as well as out-of-state breeders. They are tourist attractions that constitutes considerable income to Michigan's economy.

We join with our fellow citizens, who also enjoy recreational activities with their horse companions in Michigan's outdoor natural resources, in supporting this bill.

The Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and the Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs strongly support House Bill 4610. These two federations of hunting and dog clubs represent the recreation needs for several thousand members. It is the recommendation of these clubs that the Department of Natural shall preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle animals on all state owned land where there is a historical tradition of use of pack and saddle animals. These are activities which the hunting club members have engaged in for many years and may continue to enjoy for the future.

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*Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership  
Defending the Right to Own, Use and Enjoy our Dogs and Other Animals*